pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.40 #460 Feb 2022

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BOVI BENEFIT

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CHRIS BOVARD
THE VALLEY INN
DUBOISTOWN
1:00-2:00PM

Info/booking:
Observe the 93rd-observethe93rd@gmail.com
Derek Henry solo acoustic-derekehenry@gmail.com

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02-25-22: TBA (check web site)

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NEWPORT PA, 17074

pennsylvania musician magazine

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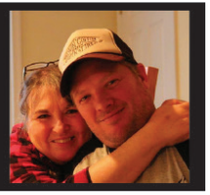
Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll



Welcome local music fans to another issue of the PA Musician Magazine. As February awakens we all get another blast of winter as the arctic air continues to flow through the mid state. Don't fear, soon it will be March 13th and we will spring our clocks ahead and ourselves right into warmer weather. At least let's hope so. In the meantime there is still lots of great music to keep you entertained in the area.

Saturday February 5th Defiant will be sharing the stage with Eternal Frequency, Lyndhurst and Dinosaurs In Paris at XL Live. It's sure to be a killer night on the big stage at XL for all the bands and fans. You can get your death metal fix this month at Reverb in Reading when the mighty Cannibal Corpse takes to the stage on the 21st. They also have Doyle coming in on March 6th so be sure to check out the back cover of this month's issue for the full schedule of upcoming events. If heavy is your thing then head over to Lovedraft's Brewing company on the 19th for Suicide Puppets, Nail Bite, Spinebelt, and Anthrophobia all on the same night presented by 717 Entertainment. This is another night you don't want to miss.

If this all sounds a little too heavy for your tastes but you still want to let you hair fly in some true 80's and 90's head banging style, then head over to the New Oxford Social Club for some Road Case on the 19th. These guys got you "covered" with all the classic rock hits from the 70's 80's and 90's. Lots of screaming guitar licks, heavy drum beats and some sweet vocals coming at you from legendary PA rocker Chris Redding. All These guys are experienced rockers who know how to have a good time.

Now let's say you just want some good ole' Southern Outlaw Country/Rock; guys wearing cowboy hats and things like pedal steel guitars, three part harmonies with some keyboards and all the electric and acoustic guitars you enjoy hearing. Then fear not, because Bob Randall has formed up Heart Break Highway. This Lancaster based band is looking to hit up the fair scene this summer and to start it all off will be playing at Boomerangs in New Cumberland on the 13th. So take your honey or significant other out for a little pre-Valentines Day treat and enjoy some outlaw country and some great food. Show starts at 3pm and last till 6.

So much happening this month its hard to keep up. We have the return of Lurch's Lair on a new online radio platform called Beadam Radio. Based out of Harrisburg PA this new station has been adding Dj's and is looking to continue to do so. Please go check them out at www.beadamradio.com and for people who are unfamiliar with Lurch's Lair features the best of national and local artists every Wednesday.

Also Grubsrof Productions is holding its an annual contest to find the best original song by a band or solo artist located in PA. It's their way of giving back to the local music scene by helping one lucky winner by having their song videoed, edited and provided to them in standard Youtube format at no charge. For more details head over to Grubsrof.com for all the details and to enter your song. This is a great chance for PA based artists so don't delay enter right away.

In sad news you may have noticed that you are not seeing anything about the Millennium Music Conference this year. After many successful years John Harris has decided to not do the MMC this year. Not sure what this means for the future of MMC or if someone will take if over, but for now it looks like the longest running local music party of the year has ended. This leaves us all with a big hole to fill. Luckily for us the 3rd Annual Central PA Music Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is just right around the corner on March 24th. It has now out grown its former location at the Whitaker Center and will be held at the beautiful Hershey Theatre which has much more room for the event to allow more of the public to attend. This has quickly become a local music reunion and an excellent night to honor all the local musicians past and present for all they have accomplished. Check out the ad in this issue and GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

The music community has lost a lot of great musicians in 2021 and its not letting up for 2022. Recently Chris Bovard, who was very well known in the Williamsport area for not only rocking the stage with his axe but also working at Robert M. Sides, has passed away. On Sunday March 6th the BOVI Benefit will be held at The Valley Inn in Duboistown with all proceeds going to the family of Chris Bovard. Check out the flyer on page 2. The list of bands already offering their time is staggering and shows how much he was loved by the local scene. The event will host two stages for non stop music all day. There will be auctions throughout the day with guitars provided from Robert M. Sides. So save the date and celebrate the life of Chris Bovard with a day of music and fellowship.

On the cover this month we are featuring Nail Bite. This Lancaster based band is just starting out and are taking the area by storm. Go check out the cover story on page 13 and learn all about this heavy metal band of youths because if you don't know who they are you will soon. This band will karate chop your music senses into another realm. I'm not joking! I caught a clip of Johnnie kung fu fight flipping across the mat at the family's Dragon MMA Academy. I kid you not these moves would make Daniel son and Johhny Lawrence run for the hills of Japan. Very impressive young Johnnie. From what I've seen this band carries that energy over to every performance so put them on your radar before you get knocked out.

That's all for this month. As always we need you, the local area music industry to fund our pages. We rely on advertising dollars to keep this paper going. If you're a new band, old band, solo act, big venue, small bar, we can help you reach more people. Doesn't matter if you're Death metal, hair metal, or no metal, We support all forms of music. Blues, country, Jazz, hip-hop. You name it we want to know about you and what you are doing. Please get in touch, it's easy to start advertising and we have rates and sizes for all budgets. Call or text 717-636-4203 or email: joshnoll@pamusician.net, look us up on facebook send a message. Write me a letter and tell me about your band. Send me free stickers cause I love free stuff. Stay Rad Central PA! I'll catch you next month or maybe you'll see me out on the road delivering papers with my bicycle. Cru Jones got nothing on me.

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Nail Bite Live Show Schedule

Upcoming Shows

February 12th 2022
Jabber Jaws
Allentown, PA

February 19th 2022
Lovedrafts Brewing Co.
Mechanicsburg PA.

February 28th 2022
Rock Rage Radio
The Church
Lebanon PA.

March 5th 2022
PA Pipeline Music TV

March 19th 2022
The Church
Lebanon PA.

April 24th 2022
Lovedrafts Brewing Co.
Mechanicsburg PA.

April 30th 2022
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April 5-with Wednesday 13-HMAC-Harrisburg, Pa

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

It's hard to believe we are already on month two of 2022. It's refreshing to see new venues opening throughout Central PA and beyond, and it's even more exciting to see bands' schedules getting busier and busier. I know a lot of us our bracing for the next shutdown. Hopefully that will never happen, but in today's world, one thing we know for sure is that there are no guarantees. We just need to get out there and support music, venues, restaurants, and businesses while we can.

This month starts out with no other night, but New Year's Eve! I usually stay home on NYE and welcome the New Year with my family. This year as my boys get bigger they have their own adventures and plans, so I decided to venture out on the town with Holly and Matt. We started the night at HMAC. They were having a party upstairs in the Capitol Room with a champagne toast at midnight and 4 bands! The first band of the night were The Sorters, they are based out of the mountains of Pennsylvania, but they had no problem taking the big city by storm. Even though their drummer couldn't make the show, they didn't let that stop them, Sam just worked a little harder playing the cajon on some songs, but then also playing the harmonica and mandolin on other songs. With Spencer's crystal clear lyrics you could definitely connect with every song. I'll definitely be keeping my eyes out to catch more of these guys. Next up, ironically enough, was Lives Lost based out of Hummelstown. Just a few weeks earlier I was walking along the Swatara Creek Trail and I saw a band I didn't recognize recording a music video under a bridge. I snuck a picture from a distance and found out later, that it happened to be Lives Lost. It was super awesome seeing them play under the bridge in the freezing cold, but it was also awesome to hear that I was definitely correct, when a band is pushing that hard, I knew they must be good, and they definitely didn't disappoint.

The Sorters

Lives Lost was definitely harder than The Sorters, but that just got us ready for Observe the 93rd. OT93 has been working tirelessly at releasing new singles, and making amazing videos to go with them! You can check them all out on their website, www.observethe93rd.com. Not only is Observe the 93rd nominated as the Best Alternative Band for the Central PA Music Awards, but Derek is also nominated for Best Male Vocalist, and their song "Awareness of Death" was also nominated for the Best Song of the Year! People are starting to harass me and say why do you always go see those guys.. Simple answer.. They are FUN! Very entertaining, the sweetest guys ever, and Angie, Derek's Mom is super awesome to hang out with! Oh and did I mention they advertise!! After OT93, we decided to zoom over to City Island to watch the Strawberry drop. We unfortunately missed Garrett Shultz and the champagne toast, but it was a beautiful night and I always wanted to check out one of the local "drops". City Island was absolutely jam packed with people. We didn't even try to get in the actual stadium. We just walked around the outside and at the strike of midnight we hurried up and jumped in the food truck lines! We were starving and before midnight the lines were ridiculous. They only had 2 food trucks. I think the city of Harrisburg was just as shocked as we were to see so many people there. Overall we rang in the New Year full of adventure, and we hope it continues throughout the year.

My next adventure took me to a new place, Jen-Jen's Rhythm N' Brews in East Berlin. Yes, again Observe the 93rd was playing there, so I decided to go check it out. When I'm going by myself to check out a new place it's always good to know there will be people I know there. Jen-Jen's reminded my of Double K, yes it was smoking, but you can also tell how much they love and will continue to support music. I was impressed with how well run everything was. The place was so packed they actually had the doorman outside the door just to make more room! Even though they were absolutely packed, they still had amazing service. They had a great system and it worked! Everyone had a blast and I didn't hear anyone complaining about not being able to get a drink. OT93 were the opening band this night so when I got there they were already playing and had fans on their feet dancing! Angie didn't have anywhere to set up her merch, but that didn't stop her, she had a box under her table, and she was still selling merch! That lady is crazy! The headlining band this night was Number of the Sun, based out of Dillsburg they were the hometown band,

Number of the Sun

DEREK HENRY ACOUSTIC SHOWS:
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Fri. 2/4.....Fat Bat Brewing 6-9 pm Hanover
Sat. 2/5 ....Hook & Flask 7-10 pm Carlisle
Fri. 2/11....Moose Lodge, 7-10 pm Carlisle
Thu. 2/17...Dylan's 5-8 pm East Berlin
Fri. 2/18...Fratelli's 7-10 pm New Cumberland
Sat. 2/19... Maxie's 6-8:30 pm,Shippensburg
Wed. 2/23..Flinchy's 7-10 pm Camp Hill
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and they brought out a great crowd. The two bands were a great mix for a night of original/alternative music. Number of the Sun also played a fair amount of covers which kept people on the dance floor singing along. Overall it was a great night of music. I'm sure I'll be back down to Jen-Jen's soon!

My next night out was a special Thursday night show at Sturges' Speakeasy in Harrisburg for Derek Henry's acoustic show. Thursday night live music is very normal for Sturges' and they had the place packed with people ready to enjoy the night. I like going to new venues with Derek because it's awesome watching people hear him for the first time, and watching him play his guitar "backwards" since he is a lefty. Derek once again handled all the craziness in the club with ease and continued to entertain us, taking requests, and laughing at some of them! But at least Angie did get to hear her favorite song, "Country Roads". During Derek's break, Matt Bynum was out with me, so he took advantage of the empty guitar and he jumped up and played a few songs for us. When the other musicians realized the Mic was open, a couple more jumped in to the fun, one of those was Chuck Britton, he's frequently playing throughout the area, I was glad our paths crossed once again. After Derek got back up there, he also played "What's Up" by the 4 Non Blondes, with Ariana, who is also the lead singer for Throwback 202. Like I said it was packed with musicians, and in true Derek fashion he has no problem sharing his stage with fellow musicians and friends.

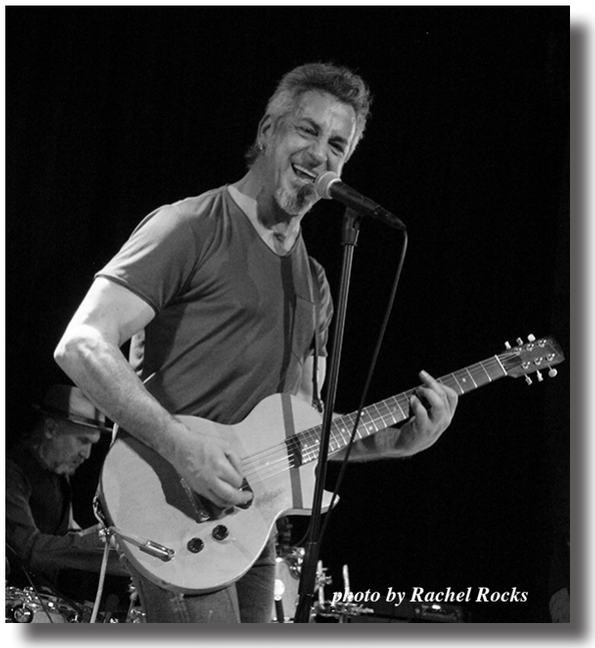
The next night I zoomed down to Racehorse Tavern for their

continued on next page...

Number of the Sun

Jason Carst

Six Bar Break



The Martini Bros.

Annual New Year party. They always close on the actual NYE so their staff can be with their families, and then they celebrate 2 weeks later with a Horse Drop at midnight with a champagne toast, party hats, noisemakers, and of course live music. I unfortunately got there right in the middle of both bands, and before Silver Mountain got a chance to take the stage I got a call from my son that he needed a ride. When duty calls, and it's one of my kids, I go! So, yes it was a long drive to Racehorse, and a long drive home, but it was well worth the try! Jimmy and his crew always put on one heck of a party and I heard it was an amazing night like usual, I'm bummed I technically had to miss it.

The next Friday night started out early when I had the special privilege to "judge" the 11th Annual Mini Thon tryouts at Cumberland Valley High School, along with Derek Euston from Green Room Recording Studio, and Brandon Valentine, President of the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame. They made the tryouts also a fundraising event so the kids could raise money during their performance for the Four Diamonds Fund, all together the kids raised $5,712 in just 2 hours! We picked 5 groups to perform at their Mini Thon there at CV High School, with a potential of getting chosen for the BIG thon even at Penn State University. The talent was all super impressive! I can't imagine being that good in high school. We also heard some performances by teachers and staff just to up the entertainment factor. It was a cool night of supporting music and at the same time, the Four Diamonds Fund. Thanks to Todd Bedard for inviting me to be part of such a cool event!

Since the night ended early I stopped in at Lovedrafts in Mechanicsburg for Social Class Dropout and ending the night was Observe the 93rd. I'm so glad Lovedrafts opened when they did. It has a great setup for bands and their fans. They have a nice sized stage and dance floor on one side of the room, and the other side is all tables where people can sit down and enjoy the show if that's what they so choose. I believe it's safe to say that Lovedrafts is now OT93's hometown bar. Their fans were out in masses to support them, and the guys put on one heck of a show!

On a Saturday I finally had no plans, so why not go see some live music. Lucky for me, Jason Carst was having an early show from 2-5 at Hershey Vineyards and Brewery so I was able to get the day started early! Jason plays a huge variety of songs, I'm pretty sure he said he knows over 300 songs. I know about 8 and I'm overwhelmed! Jason not only played his acoustic guitar, but he also broke out a very fancy electric Strat! It was beautiful. He also played with a looper machine which always amazes me. I'm glad I caught his show, it was a great way to start the night! You can check out Jason's ad in this issue to see where he is playing next.

Next after I ran some supper home to the family I bopped over to Spring Gate for Six Bar Break. I haven't heard these guys in forever, so it was nice to finally catch a show. This time it was only Ben and Dave rockin' the stage. Six Bar Break hasn't had too many live shows, but they've still been releasing new original music every first Friday in 2021, and they are continuing the craziness into 2022. One thing about Covid, it has definitely given people a lot more time to focus on writing original music. You can check out all of their music on their website, www.sixbarbreak.com.

The 3rd stop of the night was off to Englewood to see the Martini Bros. I unfortunately got there a little late and only caught about 3 songs, but I heard it was a fantastic show. When I got there they had the dance floor hopping, rockin' the night away! That was the best crowd I've seen at the Englewood. It's awesome to see so many people still out there supporting live music.

The 4th and final stop of the night was out to Hollywood Casino for Light Up the Moon. I love watching experienced bands like these guys, they just flow from song to song, practically mashing them all together. They really know how to keep everyone entertained and singing and dancing along. Light Up the Moon also sneaks in some original songs which is always an awesome surprise. I'm so glad Hollywood Casino has live music on Friday and Saturday nights. It's a fun place to go to end the night!

Social Class DropOut

My last stop of the month I finally made it back to Boneshire for John Rossey. When he's not playing a solo show, he can also be found on stage with the band Cold Spring Union. Boneshire has live music every other Thursday. It's always an extra bonus when I can find music during the week. John has an amazing voice and it was awesome to sit back and hear him play a few songs. John's voice just draws you in and it's like each song turns into a story. It was an awesome night of music, and a great way to celebrate on Friday Eve.

That's all the bands I was able to catch this month, but before I go I wanted to say Thank You to whomever nominated me as the Best Live Music Photographer as part of the Central PA Music Awards Show. Thanks also to everyone who took the time to vote! It's really an awesome feeling knowing that people do enjoy and support my work. There are a lot of super amazing photographers out there! Another nominee is my fellow writer Chris Rider. It's pretty awesome that we (The PA Musician Magazine) have two photographers that have been nominated, it will be very interesting to see who wins! You can also see it for yourself at the 3rd Annual CPMAs on March 24th. You can order tickets for the show by going to The Central PA Music Hall of Fame's website at www.cpmhof.com. There will be a super fun Red Carpet experience with David Earl Reed interviewing bands and fans as they walk the red carpet. The show starts at 7pm. With 37 different categories there are tons of amazing talented musicians and businesses nominated. It will also be bittersweet to see someone else receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in Dad's honor. It is awesome to see so many people in the Central PA Music Community all together in one room. It's like a giant family reunion! There will also be an After Party at The Englewood. The After Party is also open to the public, so come on out and celebrate Central PA with us!

That's all for this month, I can't wait to see what February brings! It's a real bummer to not have the Millennium Music Conference to look forward to this month, but I'm sure I'll find plenty of fun to be had! If you see me Out and About please stop me and say Hi! If you have any shows or events you would like me to know about I highly suggest advertising!! Or at least email me at RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Get out there and Support Local Music!!!! And Small Businesses!!!!!!

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Saturday, February 5th - 6-9pm VAUGHN HUMMEL

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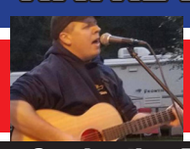
VALENTINE'S MENU:
Saturday, Feb. 12th
Sunday, Feb. 13th
Monday, Feb. 14th

Saturday, February 12th - COLTON MILLER Acoustic Music 6-9pm

Friday, February 18th - Scott Galbraith Acoustic 6-9pm

Saturday, February 19th - Acoustic 6-9pm WAYNE THOMPSON

Friday, February 25th - DMC DUO Music 6-9pm



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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! The New Year started off slowly due to many concerts being canceled due to Covid - however the future looks bright with many major concert announcements. Local musicians continue to trek on through the pandemic and offer the experience of live music. Local staples, Martini Bros. performed at Hershey's Englewood brewery on January 22nd to a very big audience. The Englewood opened in July 2020 and is a renovated historic bank barn that is now an intimate state of the art listening room concert venue. Look for many future artists visiting The Englewood including: Muna, Hexbelt, Joywave and The Badlees.

Halestorm's tour bus caught on fire while on tour in Worcester, Massachusetts on January 19th. "Halestorm had a night for the books. We were all in our hotel rooms last night and we woke up to our bus burning down at 3am," Halestorm's guitarist Joe Hottinger posted on social media. "Fun fun. No one was hurt." Hottinger wrote, "Our fearless security Steve pulled guitars and luggage out of the bay. We all lost some stuff, but it was just stuff." Lead singer, Lzzy Hale said the following day, "I'm still shook, and emotions are a bit high today. But looks like the universe is not done with us yet!" Halestorm, originally from Red Lion, PA are currently on tour with Evanescence.

The Martini Bros. at Englewood

Ronnie Spector, who sang such 1960s hits as "Be My Baby," "Baby I Love You" and "Walking in the Rain" as the leader of the girl group The Ronettes, died at the age of 78. Spector died January 12th after a brief battle with cancer, her family said. The Ronettes' sexy look and powerful voices — plus songwriting and producing help from Phil Spector — turned them into one of the premier acts of the girl-group era, touring England with The Rolling Stones and befriending the Beatles. When the Ronettes were inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones remembered opening for the trio in England in the mid-1960s. "They could sing all their way right through a wall of sound," Richards said. "They didn't need anything. They touched my heart right there and then and they touch it still."

Ronnie Spector

Michael Lee Aday, better known by his stage name Meat Loaf, passed away Thursday night, January 20th, at the age of 74. His first album, Bat Out Of Hell, was released in 1977 and became one of the best-selling albums in history. The artist's Facebook page stated, "His amazing career spanned 6 decades that saw him sell over 100 Million albums worldwide and star in over 65 movies, including 'Fight Club', 'Focus', 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' and 'Wayne's World. Bat Out of Hell remains one of the top 10 selling albums of all time."

After it was announced that Rage Against The Machine would no longer be headlining this year's Boston Calling, the festival has unveiled its full lineup. Foo Fighters, The Strokes and Metallica will be headlining the event that takes place on Memorial Day Weekend, May 27th thru the 29th. Other artists joining this year's lineup include Japanese Breakfast, Rüfüs Du Sol, HAIM, Avril Lavigne, Cheap Trick, Run The Jewels, King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, Black Pumas, Weezer, Glass Animals, Goose and more. The festival will also aim to highlight Boston's own local talents, including Born Without Bones, Avenue, Crooked Coast, Cliff Notez and more. This year's event will mark the festival's return since its 2020 cancellation due to the pandemic.

Slipknot has announced they will be hitting the road once again for their Knotfest Roadshow, and have announced 38 dates. In This Moment and Jinjer will be joining Slipknot for the first leg of the tour, the second leg will see Cypress Hill and Ho99o9 opening and kicks off at the Bryce Jordan Center in University Park, PA. The tour also visits Santander Arena in Reading, PA on April 2nd. Slipknot will be releasing their seventh studio album sometime later this year.

Zac Brown Band revealed 2022 touring plans, following the group's successful return to the road in 2021. The band's "Out In The Middle Tour" consists of 30-dates and will visit Hersheypark Stadium on August 14th. 311 has announced 20 dates for "The Spring Tour" 2022, 311 released their most recent album, Voyager in July 2019. Spoon is planning to hit the road starting this April in support of their upcoming album, Lucifer On the Sofa. Spoon visit Washington DC's 9:30 Club on April 11th and Philadelphia's Fillmore on April 15th. Hanson has announced 81 dates for their upcoming world tour. It takes place across Europe, North America, Latin America and Australia, the "Red Green Blue World Tour" promotes their upcoming album to be released on May 20th. Stops include, Silver Spring, MD Fillmore July 23rd and Philadelphia Fillmore July 24th. This spring, Kid Rock with tour 24-cities for his Bad Reputation Tour with Foreigner, Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening and Grand Funk Railroad. Sammy Hagar will tour with George Thorogood and the Destroyers for 14-dates beginning in June.

Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Bon Jovi are headed back on the road this spring. Bon Jovi spent much of the past two years recording and releasing new music, including their latest album 2020. Since their formation in 1983, Bon Jovi have sold over 130 million albums, and performed thousands of concerts in more than 50 countries for more than 35 million fans. In the last decade alone, worldwide ticket grosses surpassed $1 billion.

Eagles have once again extended its "Hotel California" tour with new March-May arena dates. Featuring Don Henley, Joe Walsh, and Timothy B. Schmit, with Deacon Frey and Vince Gill, each show will feature the iconic Hotel California album performed in its entirety from start to finish. A short intermission is followed by a setlist filled with Eagles' greatest hits. Since the "Hotel California" tour begin in Las Vegas in 2019 to rave reviews, the Eagles have played more than 30 sold-out shows in 15 major U.S. arenas. New gigs include: Pittsburgh's PPG Paints Arena on March 26th and Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Arena on March 28th. Hotel California is the third best-selling U.S. album in history and certified 26-times Platinum by the RIAA.

FEBRUARY SHOWS: Hexbelt - Hershey Englewood Feb 4. Menzingers - Harrisburg HMAC Feb 12. Strictly Hip - Harrisburg XL Live Feb 12. Marky Ramone - Reading Reverb Feb 12. The Spits - Baltimore Ottobar Feb 17. The Spits - Philadelphia Johnny Brendas Feb 18. Anthrophobia - Harrisburg Lovedrafts Feb 19. Foxy Shazam - Millersville Phantom Power Feb 25. Blues Vultures - Edgewood, MD Club 66 Feb 26. Anthrophobia - West York Inn Feb 26.

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NAIL BITE - POUNDING THEIR WAY INTO THE METAL SCENE

Article By: Rachel Rocks *Cover/inside photos by Lisa Bitting*

Lonna Nelson, Johnnie Bitting, Caiden Nelson, Austin Landis

I recently had the privilege of judging a Youth Music Showcase for the Central PA Music Hall of Fame, one of the acts performing that day was Nail Bite. As a fan of metal music, I was shocked when they took the stage and broke out with Slipknot's *"The Devil in I"*. One thing you learn quickly with Nail Bite, is they aren't messing around. Even though 4 out of the 5 members are under 18, it's quite amazing what they've accomplished since becoming a band in November of 2019, even with a pandemic messing everything up.

Nail Bite, based out of Lancaster, PA, has already released 29 songs including 2 full Albums and 13 official music videos between 2020 and 2021. They won Castle Blakk Radio's Band of the Month award in December 2021, ultimately leading to them winning the Band of the Year for 2021 too! They were named in the top 5 rising acts at the Blue Ridge Rock Fest in September of 2021. For those that don't know, the Blue Ridge Rock Fest was one of the biggest music festivals in the Nation for 2021, other bands on the bill: Megadeath, 5 Finger Death Punch, Shinedown, Seether, etc… They were even chosen as one of the Top 5 overall acts at Blue Ridge Rock Fest by livemusictoday.com. They've also recently been listed as a Central PA Music Award nominee for the Best Youth Band/Artist. They have been featured in several music magazines all over the world, and their music has been played on radio stations in over 100 different countries. But where did they come from?

Johnnie Bitting has been playing guitar since he was 5 years old. He also trains at the family's Dragon MMA Academy. Since they are the owners of Dragon MMA Academy, and Johnnie and his Dad both have such a love of music, they also decided to incorporate having music lessons at the studio after their martial arts classes. One of those fellow students was Austin Landis, who is now their drummer. Austin has a very intense double bass drumming technique that you are sure to feel after any show! The lessons got Johnnie and Austin jamming together, even though they were only 9 at the time, they both enjoyed playing and continued to develop their skills. After a few years they were at a Summer Camp for Dragon MMA Academy and they were all just playing Rock Band on Xbox, and Lonna Nelson, came over and stepped in as the singer and instantly Johnnie was amazed even though Lonna was only 10 at the time, she could sing Adele's "Someone Like You" perfectly! The next Summer Lonna signed up for the Talent Show at Summer Camp and sang "Colors of the Wind" from the Pocahontas movie, and John told Johnnie, I don't care how young she is, that's your singer!

Johnnie and Lonna started playing acoustic shows and doing open mics, it started with songs by Adele and other sweet female singers, but then they started getting a little harder, covering Metallica, and other metal songs. When Johnnie started writing songs, they were songs that needed to have more emotion, he was trying to add in the growls, but when everyone was laughing at him he joked to Lonna, you try it.. She went in to their "vocal recording room" (aka Johnnie's closet) and they couldn't believe the sound coming out of the closet. It was just natural for her to growl and roar, it doesn't even hurt her throat when she does it, because she is doing it right. Lonna's brother Caiden also played the guitar, but when they were looking to grow into a full band, they needed a keyboard player, and Caiden stepped up to the task. The keyboard can bring in so many other elements.

As soon as they got the band all lined up, they decided it was time to start booking shows. The Church in Lebanon was the first venue to let them play, and they will forever be grateful. Nip Nyce also had them stop by his Rock Rage Radio show to play an acoustic song which helped launch their music into the online radio show media. It's not easy as minors finding places that will let you play, and when you do get the opportunity there are usually special rules to follow. They were muddling through and had a few gigs all lined up, and then Covid hit.

Johnnie didn't let that stop him, he just started writing songs like a crazy man. He wrote 20 songs during the Covid shutdown. He finds inspiration from the turmoil happening in today's world. When he's writing he loves to try and incorporate traditional instruments like the Sitar, that Caiden is able to play through the keyboard. As they continued to develop as a band, Lonna also started co-writing songs with Johnnie. When she is helping to create the song it just helps her connect with it even more to bring out her insane emotions in every song.

They started out doing everything on their own, mainly from Johnnie's bedroom...all of the recording, videos, etc. They knew it wasn't real professional quality, but they had to give it a shot. They started by releasing 6 or 7 songs throughout 2020, one of those songs, "Winds of Neptune" that they released on YouTube broke through. It was getting airtime on different radio stations throughout the world, and before they knew it, it had over 65k streams on Spotify and Apple Music. In January of 2021 they released their first album, Mammoth of the Great Sea. Their album also got great response, and it really helped them feel like they were starting to go to the next level with their music.

While sitting in his room cruising the internet one day, Johnnie decided to randomly put in an application to get a spot to play at the Blue Ridge Music Festival, he sort of thought it was kind of a joke, but then all of a sudden they got contacted that they were selected. When they started posting on Social Media that they were selected no one really believed them, but when they did a live stream on the Blue Ridge Rock Festival's website, people started giving them a lot more respect. When they took the stage and

continued on page 15...

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Feb. 26 Deep Space 90s•8PM

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RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

January came...January went. Between a few minor medical issues and more time in a plow truck than I'd have preferred, I didn't get out this month for nearly as much music as I'd like to have. As a result, my article's going to be a bit shorter than normal...but the music I did see was still fantastic and needs to be talked about.

My first trip was up to Isle of Que Brewing in Selinsgrove for the Singer/Songwriter Showcase hosted by Jason Yoder. This is a monthly event for the micro-brewery and it brings out a great variety of artists playing their own original music in styles ranging from country to blues, pop/rock, Americana, etc. Each artist gets to play three of their songs, then they move on to the next artist. Jason started the night off with a set of his originals including Wicked Lullaby's. He was followed by other local artists: Kevin Regan, Rebecca Jade Hoover, John Burns, and Keith Bossert. Each of the artists brought their own style to a room full of music fans, it made for a great night. The beer selections here are awesome, every time I'm there.

Our next trip out for the month was down to Thomasville for my first time at the Racehorse Tavern to see the guys in Stricken play. I've known the guys for a little while now but this was the first time I'd been able to make it to one of their shows. They absolutely killed it, and the crowd was awesome... singing along, dancing sometimes, and just generally having a great time. Dave and the guys played a whole set of Disturbed's most popular hits. Lead singer David Zienkiewicz really showed a lot of depth when he continued singing "Sound of Silence" A cappella after the backing track failed, after which the crowd just exploded with well deserved applause.

My last trip out for the month, my son joined me over at the Sherman's Creek Inn to see Annville based rock band The Full Circle. A four piece rock and roll band that plays a mix of covers and originals, they pride themselves on "putting on a great show and having fun". I got a chance to talk to a few of the guys in between sets and they were a great group of guys. They'd known each other for a long time, some since High School (I was asked not to say how long ago that was LOL), and recently decided to put this band together and have fun with it. Covering a wide range of songs like "I Wanna Be Sedated", "One Way or Another", "Tush", and "Machinehead", these guys played with a ton of enthusiasm, they sounded great, and they had the dance floor packed for most of their time on stage.

photo by Chris Rider Photography

photo by Chris Rider Photography

While it was a busy month for me, not so much in music as I'd have liked. February's looking pretty good so far though as I look forward to a few shows at HMAC, The Englewood, and a few others...as long as Mother Nature minds her business LOL.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

NAIL BITE - POUNDING THEIR WAY INTO THE METAL SCENE continued....

rocked it, they had an amazing crowd response and got a ton of new fans, and world-wide recognition. Another side note of the Music Festival is that it was a 4 day festival where they were able to backstage as artists and do things like eat dinner beside Poppa Roach, POD, Fit for a King, and many others. They took full advantage of every minute and these kids have guts, they have no problem going up to anyone and introducing themselves and letting them know who they are and what they are all about.

Of course as a "bunch of kids" they are an easy target and they get approached by a lot of people that want to help them with their career. They are lucky to have great, involved parents that keep them all grounded and protected. One problem they've had is their "bedroom recordings" they've had radio stations tell them that they would love to play their song, but the recording itself wasn't good enough quality. Jesse Joseph from Apple-Doog Studios reached out to them and offered to mix and master their songs. He told them he loved their music, and he wanted to help them take it to the next level. Their first song they released with Jesse's help was "Disengage". You can definitely hear the difference! He also redid their song "Winds of Neptune". They are quickly getting the new version out there and people are loving it. They included the new "Winds of Neptune" song on their latest album, Lost Travelers, that they just released on December 31st. You can check out all of their music, tour dates, and even buy their merch on their website, nailbiteofficial.com, or you can also stream it on all your favorite streaming platforms.

Being a young band is not easy without a whole tribe of people supporting you, and Nail Bite definitely has it! They have their bass player who is also Johnnie's Dad doing all of their booking, Johnnie's Mom Lisa helps them do their pictures at shows, and promotional shots, the Nelson's Mom Megan does their cool face painting, and she did the Claymation in their Crown of Filth video that took like 6 months to do! Scott Church for giving them their first show at The Church, Doctor D. Photography for all of their awesome live shots and for supporting their shows, Brandon Valentine for selecting them to play on the Central PA Music Hall of Fame Live Streams during Covid that helped the local scene realize they were out there, the Suicide Puppets for reaching out and supporting them. They actually have a show with Suicide Puppets on February 19th at Lovedrafts Brewing Co. in Mechanicsburg. A special huge thank you to all of their fans near and far for listening to their music, and sharing it with their friends, and for coming to their shows! The fans definitely help make things a lot more fun and rewarding!

Nail Bite has quite a few shows scheduled throughout February and March and beyond, so check out their website, www.nailbiteofficial.com, for all of their shows, music, merch, and updates! These kids have only just begun.. I can't wait to watch and see where they go next!

www.nailbiteofficial.com

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

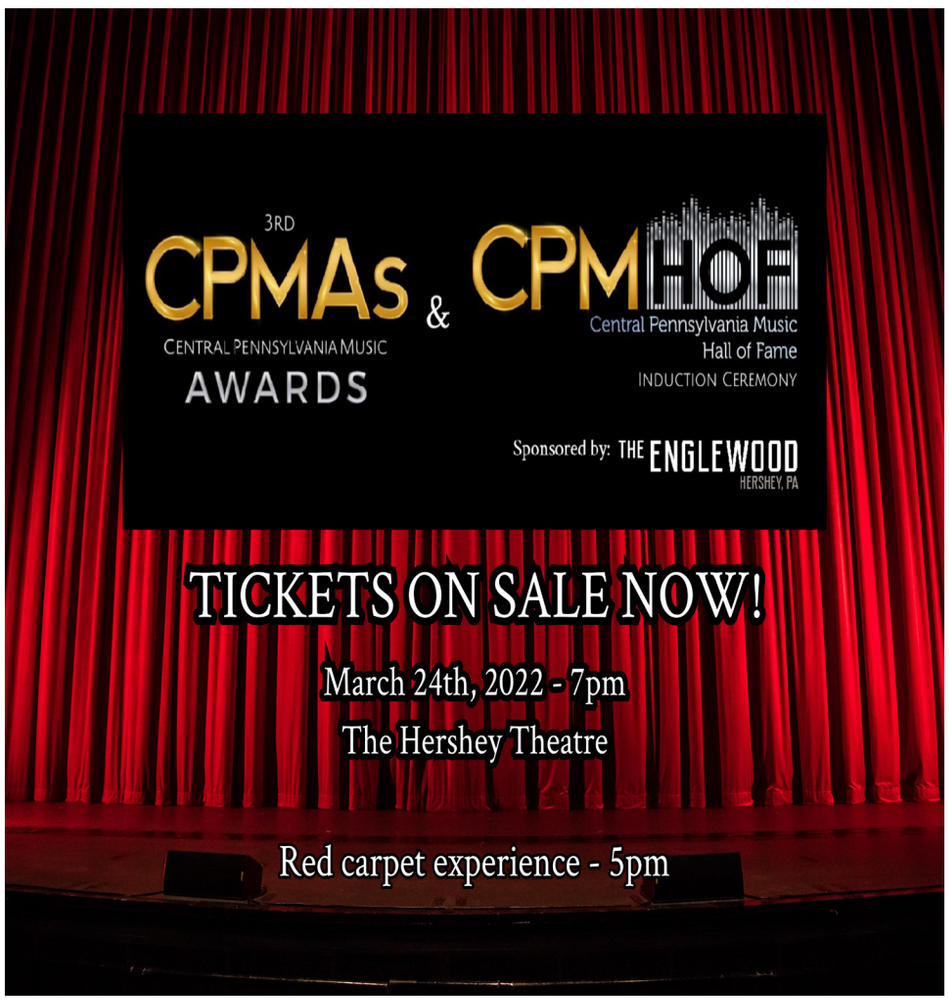
With the first month of 2022 now in the books, I'm feeling optimistic about this year on the area music scene, especially in my hometown of Altoona. New bands and artists are surfacing, exciting shows and events are being announced already for the spring and summer seasons, and I'm witnessing the growth of a music and arts community, with forward-minded people committed to growing and sustaining that community. It's all exciting and encouraging to witness, and I'm hopeful to see what the coming months bring.

A key component in this movement has been the growth of ArtsAltoona and the ArtsAltoona Center. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2015, ArtsAltoona has worked to support and connect the Altoona area's arts community, as well as work with community leaders to inspire creativity in the region. The gifting of two buildings by the congregation of Simpson-Temple United Parish to ArtsAltoona two years ago established the ArtsAltoona Center, an evolving arts center that hosts art classes and programs, community events and exhibits, and live music events in two performance venues (soon to be three).

I caught my first show at the ArtsAltoona Center last month, a triple-bill featuring Dr. Chance Bartleby & the ?, Bad Luck Lover Boys and Hot Fudge Mondaes in the venue's basement "Blank Canvas" space. Dr. Chance Bartleby & the ? were just under way as I arrived. The group has expanded to a trio with the recent addition of bassist Scott Jurcik (tentatively dubbed the '!'). The '?' – James Grove – played the drums while lead vocalist, guitarist, poet, philosopher, performance artist and sage Dr. Chance barked out lyrics and litanies. Although his punk rock-geared style – with hints of Henry Rollins and Fantomas-era Mike Patton – leaned chaotic, Dr. Chance laid down some interesting chord progressions as he wove stories and observations, while encouraging the audience to boo him after each song (some, like me, were both booing and clapping). Performing next was Bedford foursome the Bad Luck Lover Boys, firing off their catchy brand of punk-driven rock. Singer and guitarist Chris Diehl, guitarist and singer Matt Goddisart, bassist and singer Adam Lingenfelter and drummer Brad Hengst mixed songs off last year's "Letters to Emily" CD with several of their new tunes. Bad Luck Lover Boys showed a knack for melodies, both with the new songs and catchy numbers from the CD such as "In One Day," "Anything at All," "Corey's Hangover," "Movie Song," the Adam-fronted numbers "London Fog" and "Internal Monologue," and more. And Hot Fudge Mondaes finished the night with their volatile set, mixing high-powered, punk-rooted original tunes with select covers. This group was all-out from the get-go, and fired up some lively moshpit action.

Another venue that has opened its doors to the local arts community during the past year is JOOS in downtown Altoona, a wellness and juice café. They hosted last month's "A Path Less Traveled Music Showcase" event, which spotlighted five performing acoustic acts – solo performers Jeff Wendle, Samantha Press, Matthew Sheedy and Digital Graves (Ian Wissinger), plus acoustic duo Lucid Youth & the Space Queen – and their original music. Each presented their own styles and angles of songwriting and music creation, with a good-sized contingent of music fans and supporters on hand to cheer them on. The opener, Jeff began his set with a rendition of Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone," before introducing his melody-based original songs with a cordial, relaxed presentation. Bedford's Samantha Press followed with a set of her original songs. Leading off with her reminiscent ode "When Crickets Cry," Samantha painted pictures and told stories with her lyrics, and brought those words to life with her expressive voice. Matthew Sheedy's set showed a touch of swagger; with his rhythmic style of playing, Matthew mixed several original tunes with versions of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," John Butler Trio's "Good Excuse," his acoustic take on Incubus' "A Certain Shade of Green" and more. Digital Graves, the performance alter ego of singer and songwriter Ian Wissinger, introduced a mild and thoughtful slant with his set of acoustic original songs. The pairing of Philadelphia-based multi-instrumentalist and singer Guy Mauro and singer Anna Marie Bidoli, Lucid Youth & the Space Queen merged psychedelic and retro 1960s flavors into their style of acoustic music. Some of their numbers included "The Word," "Space Queen," and with the Space Queen singing the lead, "Kind." Capping the evening, Ariana Kriebel led much of the audience in a meditation exercise, with several audience members providing percussion and singing bowl accompaniment. Also taking place as the musicians performed was live painting near the stage courtesy of Emma Housel. JOOS presents their next evening of live music and art, "The Clearing" Arts & Music Showcase with five performers, on Feb. 25.

My New Year began on a positive note, courtesy of the Pennsoulvanians' upbeat and soul-stirring performance during



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THE PROFESSOR continued....

McGarvey's Masquerade Ball New Year's Eve celebration. Celebrants were encouraged to dress up and wear their most creative masquerade masks. (I decorated mine with a variety of area band stickers.) After McGarvey's main man, masked pseudo-clergyman "Father Rich," opened the night by toasting the memory of actress Betty White (who passed earlier that day), the Pennsoulvanians carried the festive, masked crowd into the New Year with their grooving, upbeat vibes. Singer and acoustic guitarist Chet Denny, singer and rhyme artist Michael Thomas, guitarist Nate Nagle, saxophonist Lyndsay Reilly, keyboardist Brett Fanelli, bassist Michael Stanley and drummer Todd Harshbarger blended R&B, reggae, folk, jazz and hip-hop flavors into their surging and powerful original song creations. The group set an energetic tone early, and built on it through the rest of the night. They rode each song toward an uplifting crescendo, achieving full-powered grooves that pulled celebrants onto the dance floor and kept everybody nodding and grooving. The Pennsoulvanians performed crowd-pleasing favorites like "Hustle Til the Morning," "Third Time," "40 Acres," the reggae-driven "Day Has Come," "Slip Out of Your Clothes" and many more. The group's musicianship was top-notch this night, with Nate, Lyndsay and Brett providing frequent solo highlights on their respective instruments, as well as blending forces to help lift the songs to another level. After Brett and Todd ushered in 2022 with their key-and-drum rendition of "Auld Lang Syne," the Pennsoulvanians' homestretch set took things even higher, with band and crowd energy escalating the atmosphere to another level. For the finale, guest Danny Rivera joined the group to contribute words on another of their crowd favorites, "Swagger," with the band and dance floor riding the song's hopeful theme to an emotional high to end the night. The Pennsoulvanians look toward a hopeful year ahead, as they plan to record some of their songs, and introduce their live show into more areas around the state.

Beyond New Year's Eve, the first band I saw in 2022 was The Band OZ at Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society. Lead singer and guitarist Don Osborn, guitarist Craig Albright, bassist and singer Bill Hunter and drummer Bill Hocherl presented their distinctive takes on a variety of blues, jazz and classic rock favorites, attracting dancers onto the floor along the way. They did hits and favorites from the Rolling Stones, James Brown, Gregg Allman, Jonny Lang, Dire Straits, Derek & the Dominoes, the Beatles and more. But they also pulled out several songs you don't often hear, such as Delbert McClinton's "Every Time I Roll the Dice," Albert Collins' "If You Love Me Like You Say," Jeff Beck's "Going Down," Elmore James' "Shake Your Moneymaker," B.B. King's "Help the Poor," and the merger of "Fly Me to the Moon" into the Beatles' "You Can't Do That." The musicianship sounded solid, with Don and Craig exchanging clean and inspired guitar leads, and the all-Bill rhythm section providing the solid foundations behind them.

The Unter Uns still hosts the weekly Open Jam on Wednesday nights, presented by the Live Music Preservation Society...And the Open Jams provided excitement during the Christmas holiday season, as unexpected guest musicians added to the musical fireworks. During the Wednesday preceding Christmas, guests included former area musician Barry Daugherty (now based in Alabama), who played some lead guitar and sang lead vocals on Neil Young's "Cortez the Killer," Nate Beatty (now based in Nashville) playing bass, and – all the way from Austin, Texas – Hanna Barakat and Altoona native Lisa Fazenbaker. Lisa sat in behind the drum kit a few times this night, and Hanna sang lead on the night-ending rendition of Tracy Chapman's "Give Me One Reason." The Wednesday following Christmas was the official Christmas Jam Night, with many musicians in the house and participating. It was great to see the interaction between musicians this night, as longtime area musicians played alongside young guns and newer musicians. Open Jam Night happens at the Unter Uns every Wednesday.

One of the final bands I saw in 2021 was Tyson Reid & the Juniata River Boys, who mixed bluegrass, folk and country flavors at Spring Dam Brewing Co. in Roaring Spring on the eve before New Year's Eve. Namesake Tyson on vocals and acoustic guitar, Gary Willison on fiddle and Dean Berkheimer on banjo, acoustic guitar, mandolin and vocals mixed original songs and favorites. Some of the favorites included versions of "Tennessee Waltz," Steve Earle's "Copperhead Road," Merle Haggard's "Silver Wings," "Green, Green Grass of Home" and "Boil Them Cabbage Down." Dean sang lead on one of his original songs, "Bullscreek Stew" (referencing the Bullscreek area near Claysburg in southern Blair County), while Tyson celebrated his local roots with the song "Back to the Ol' Juniata." Guest Brandi Naugle joined the group to sing lead on a rendition of "Silent Night."

Playing their official first show last month was Altoona's Paper Plants, whose debut headlined a triple-bill at McGarvey's. I missed openers Treaties, but arrived during the night's second band, Pittsburgh's Back Alley Sound. Five members strong this night, Back Alley Sound brought the crowd to attention with their powerful mix of hard-hitting funk, soul, hip-hop and slamming grooves. Vocalist Shark Parker brought the swagger and sass with his mix of soulful singing and fast-firing raps, flanked by guitarist

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THE PROFESSOR continued....

Myles Mahoney, bassist and keyboardist Sam Kisic, saxophonist Robert Ruffner and drummer Jay B$. Formed during the COVID shutdown and weathering delays to their live debut through last year, Paper Plants finally took the stage to end the night. Several familiar area musicians comprise this group; Ty Ayers on lead vocals and guitar, Joe Scott on lead guitar and backing vocals, bassist Ty Miller and drummer Steve Holtz showcased their original songs, introducing their style of melody-geared hard rock. Paper Plants did several songs from their debut recording "Disclosure," such as "Fighting Gravity," "The Worst" and "Trials and Tribulations," plus a few newer songs. Their songs were catchy and intriguing, with singer Ty providing a strong voice up front, Joe crafting interesting guitar riffs and accents, and bassist Ty and Steve providing strong and sharp rhythms to power the songs along. Paper Plants received good response from the large crowd; watch for them as they play more shows in the coming months.

Indiana-based rockers Midnight Lights returned to McGarvey's last month, and introduced a new bass player, as Amy Manofsky takes over four-string duties from Tim Card. Also with the band this night was guest Drew Zimmerman of August Winters on rhythm guitar; Drew met three of the band members with their previous project, Twin Trees. Amy, Drew, singer Ryan Sharp, guitarist Tommy Lyttle and drummer Alex Brewer played power pop/punk numbers from the 1990s and 2000s, along with a few original songs. Midnight Lights kept audience members cheering and dancing with numbers from Weezer, Jimmy Eat World, Bowling for Soup, Green Day, Blink 182, Fallout Boy, All-American Rejects, Machine Gun Kelly, Ataris, Smashmouth and more. Ryan sounded good on the vocals, and eagerly addressed and rallied the audience as the show went along. Former bassist Tim joined Midnight Lights for much of the third set. Midnight Lights showed plentiful energy and enthusiasm, which resonated with the audience and kept them involved with the show. Watch for Midnight Lights as they play stages in Indiana, Cambria, Blair Counties and elsewhere in western PA.

Gelatinous Cube also returned to McGarvey's last month. This was the final show of this State College band's current edition, as guitarist Graham Colby is leaving the group to relocate to North Carolina. Graham, guitarist and singer Tom Harper, bassist Ed Colby and drummer Z. Rozzi again demonstrated their adventurous brand of original music. Gelatinous Cube mixes elements of rock, jazz and international music into a stew uniquely their own. Their compositions often ride along tricky time signatures and unpredictable chord progressions, with intensifying interludes adding tension-and-release dynamics. The group introduced several new tunes this night, including some intriguing instrumentals, and also did material off their latest album "Technicolor Dreams." Once Gelatinous Cube finds their new guitarist, watch for them on area stages for a taste of something different.

Two area band frontmen teamed up for a double-bill at McGarvey's last month, as Lloyd singer Nik Mik and Derek Mrdjenovich of Walkney both entertained with acoustic sets. Nik Mik (Nik Munyons) opened with his set of original songs, showing freewheeling melodies, unexpected progressions and mood swings as he merged rock, pop, folk and rockabilly flavors. Nik ran the emotional gamut from relaxed to rage, while addressing and sharing insights with the audience. Derek followed with his acoustic set, performing a mix of newer and older songs from his modern pop/rock arsenal. Derek continues to be an enthusiastic performer who likes to entertain, and he mixed in thoughts and perspectives as he performed his songs. Derek performed more recent numbers like "Selfish" and "All in My Head," as well as established favorites like "I Always Wanted You." Derek looks forward to returning to the road later this year and performing around the country.

I caught some country last month by taking in the Zac Grace Band's performance at Altoona's 4D's Lounge. Since setting out on his solo career a few years ago, Zac works between Nashville and his home base locally. Joining Zac on stage this night were bassist Eric Wertz, guitarist Brad Lego and drummer Matthew Stevens. (Another guitarist, Ben Eberhart, was not available this night.) Zac and his band had dancers boot-scootin' their moves on the floor, as the group did favorites from John Mellencamp, Brooks & Dunn, Morgan Wallen, Toby Keith, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Bryan Adams and more. Zac also performed a couple of his originals – his latest single, "PPL I Drink With," and "This Is the Day." Zac told the audience that "This Is the Day" was about his decision to pursue a solo career, and to not be afraid to pursue your dreams and ambitions. Zac was well-received by the crowd; he and his band return to the 4D's Lounge on March 12.

Also at the 4D's last month, I caught my first look at Buzz On 27. Formed five years ago, Buzz On 27 reunites several members of the former Hello, Vixen – lead singer and guitarist Mark Simanski, guitarist Bill Maguire and drummer Steve Holtz, with Brad Davis playing bass. Buzz On 27 delivered mostly punk-infused rock favorites to the audience; doing numbers from Blink 182, Ataris, Gin Blossoms, Nirvana, Linkin Park, The Offspring, Rage Against the Machine, The Outfield and more. They also offered a punk-rocking dropkick to Bob Dylan's "It Ain't Me Babe," as well as a rockabilly spin to Mumford & Sons' "Little Lion Man." And the group provided a reminder of their former Hello, Vixen days, breaking out their version of Bouncing Souls' "Ole" near the end of the night. Buzz On 27 sounded sharp and enthusiastic, and kept the Dees' dance floor busy.

Felix & the Hurricanes celebrated their 33rd anniversary as a band last month. During those 33 years, the group's ringleader, lead singer Felix Kos, has established himself as one of the region's most popular and respected guitar players. Because of this, every so often one of the group's Hurricaniac fans will bring a guitar along for Felix to check out and "christen." Such an occurrence happened last month at Altoona's Black & Gold Tavern during one of the Hurricanes' weekly Sunday night performances. During a set break, a Hurricaniac named Henry brought a colorful guitar up to the stage for Felix to look at. Henry's son had won the guitar, a NASCAR-themed PRS guitar. Felix quickly turned into a child on Christmas morning, plugging in the guitar and noodling with it during the break, and then proceeding to "tame the wild guitar" during the Hurricanes' final set. With drummer Bob Watters and Pat McGinnis filling in on bass, Felix gave that guitar a workout, making it sing on numbers by the Eagles, Santana, Albert King, CCR, ZZ Top, Chris Stapleton, and to close the night, the Allman Brothers/Molly Hatchet's "Dreams I'll Never See." Felix successfully tamed another wild guitar, bringing its clean and clear voice out for the crowd to hear and enjoy. Adventures like this can happen on any given Hurricanes Sunday night at the Black & Gold Tavern.

And while on the PA Musician magazine delivery trail in Bedford last month, I caught momentary looks at Eric Delozier (in the midst of performing Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone") at Bella Terra Vineyards, as well as Bree Gearhart in the middle of a song at Olde Bedford Brewing Co. I plan to catch full shows from both performers in the weeks and months ahead.

News and Notes…Halestorm endured a close call last month when their tour bus caught fire outside the Hilton Garden Inn in Worcester, Massachusetts as the group was sleeping inside the hotel. Local firefighters quickly arrived and extinguished the flames, which were confined to the bus' bunk area. Nobody was

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THE PROFESSOR continued....

injured, and the group's guitars and luggage were rescued from the fire; Halestorm went on to perform their concert with Evanescence later that night at the DCU Convention Center in Worcester…The organizers of the annual Millennium Music Conference in Harrisburg announced that the conference has suspended operations and will not be producing the event this year due to challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 situation…Organizers have announced the dates for the third annual Mass N The Grass Music & Arts Festival; the event will happen Aug. 5-7 at the Sinking Valley Fairgrounds north of Altoona…Homer City-based rockers Post Traumatik have had another of their songs selected for an upcoming horror movie; the song "Flight of the Mothman" has been chosen to be included in the upcoming Joshua Bruckner film update of "Mothman," currently in pre-production…The Derek Woods Band will perform live at Punxsutawney's Gobbler's Knob as part of the 135th annual Groundhog Day Celebration; the group will perform both in Barclay Square in downtown Punxsutawney on Groundhog Eve, as well as at Gobbler's Knob between the early morning fireworks and the official appearance of Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog on Groundhog Day…And singer Tess Marshall of Williamsport-based rock group Clyde Frog made her network television debut on the January 17 episode of NBC Television's drama series "Ordinary Joe."

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Mark Samanski / Buzz On 27 photo by Jim Price

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Brandi Naugle sits in w/ Tyson Reid & The Juniata River Boys

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

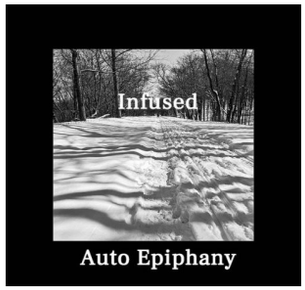
By Jim Price

THE SEMI-SUPERVILLAINS – PLAY THAT ROCK'N'ROLL (no label) Play That Rock'N'Roll is the title of the new full-length album by the Semi-Supervillains, as well as the mission statement of what the group proceeds to do over the course of the album's eight songs. Originating from the Weirton, West Virginia-Pittsburgh area but now based in Nashville, the Semi-Supervillains explore their rock'n'roll roots, tapping especially into various 1970s-era rock and hard rock influences. Singer and guitarist Vinnie Longhi leads this lively, edgy, straight-up-the-gut journey; flanked by guitarist Izaac Short, bassist John Pennacchio and drummer Logan Compton. The Semi-Supervillains set the table with the infectious album-opener "Joyride," a driving, hook-fueled rant that would sound good on 1970s rock radio between the Rolling Stones and Slade. Presenting this set's slowest tempo, the title number "Play That Rock'n'Roll" utilizes a full-bodied blues-ballad vibe to underscore Vinnie's words of rock'n'roll as solace and salvation from heartbreak. The rambunctious "Lick a Toad" establishes hard-rocking boogie with hints of 1990s psychobilly, while spinning a story of an unexpected encounter and road journey. The group gets their 'led' out with the thunderous "Bad Place," laying down a heavy, slide guitar-fueled groove, capped by Vinnie's high-flying vocal howl. The Semi-Supervillains tap into 1960s/70s psychedelic folk-rock terrain with "Diesel Creek," while "Pray" rides a spaghetti-western vibe toward the sunset. "Overtime" rocks and swaggers hard, leading into the rowdy album-finishing boogie rant "Snowplow Man." The Semi-Supervillains reboot 1970s rock'n'swagger into their own youthful voice. Vinnie's charged vocals and authoritative guitar cadences provide electricity and edge, and his bandmates' rumbling rhythms deliver the muscle behind him. The song arrangements are raw and concise, and the group's presentation is confident and fearless. Recorded and mixed by Vinnie at his home studio in Nashville, and mastered by Rick Witkowski, Play That Rock'n'Roll sounds sharp, full and vibrant; with its bare-knuckles approach letting the voices and instruments do the talking. The Semi-Supervillains loudly and proudly brandish their roots and influences on their sleeves with Play That Rock'n'Roll, in the process further establishing their own hard-charging rock'n'roll turf. (The album can be obtained through the group's website, www.semisupervillains.com.)

MARK DeROSE AND THE DREADNOUGHTS – IN SEARCH OF THE GOOD DAYS (no label) Lancaster's Mark DeRose has been entertaining audiences with his original music for more than two decades, and has been doing so with his current band, the Dreadnoughts, for almost ten years. On their latest album, In Search of the Good Days, Mark and the Dreadnoughts weave together a feel-good set of rock and soul sounds. The group's sound is rooted in the blue-eyed soul, R&B and pop-rock flavors of the 1960s and 70s, and they generate catchy, pleasant and groove-laden melodies over the album's nine tracks. Mark sings, plays guitars and keys; accompanied by bassist Chris Jakubowicz, drummer Jake Ritchey, electric guitarist Kyle Hancock, sax player Ryan Shenk, trumpet player Blake Hillard, plus backing singer Dan Brenner and percussionist Michael Washkevich. Leading off the album, "Good Days Will Come Again" sets an upbeat tone with its theme of reminiscence and hope for a happy future. That hopeful mood informs other upbeat numbers such as the punchy "Pouring Down on Me," the dual-speed "Rainy Day in Mexico," the love-propelled "All It Ever Takes" and Mark's tip of the hat to classic hits that inspired him, "Every Song I've Ever Heard of Love."

Mark and the Dreadnoughts even make a breakup song sound almost bright and sassy on "Evangeline," but strike more thoughtful tones on the relationship-themed "Curious Thing" and the reminiscent and fatherly album-closer "Don't Cry." The group includes one cover, a robust and driving update of The Band's "Shape I'm In." This album radiates a warm vibe from start to end; the performances sound enthusiastic, with flavorful top-notch musicianship and Mark's soulful, joy-exuding vocals. Produced by Mark DeRose and Michael Washkevich, and mixed and mastered by Michael at MDW Productions in Harrisburg, this album sounds crisp, smooth and full. Bottom line – In Search of the Good Days is one of those albums that can't help but make listeners smile, move and groove. It generates a spirited and joyful listen from start to end, as Mark DeRose and the Dreadnoughts sound focused, happy and inspired. (The CD can be obtained through the website www.dreadnot-music.com.)

INFUSED – AUDIO EPIPHANY (no label) Evolving from a prior band project called Upstream, Altoona's Infused surfaced in the early 2000s and issued their first album, Beyond Cohesion, in 2004. Infused played out live, but the passing of drummer Ed Longo in 2006 brought the group to a halt. They eventually resumed creating music as a studio entity, and after two EP's have now issued their latest full-length album, Audio Epiphany. Shawn Huss on vocals and acoustic guitar; Rod Skelley on electric guitar, keys and drums; and Dave Carles on bass further define and evolve their alternative rock style and sound over the album's ten tracks. Their style features gradually evolving, full-bodied melodies that build through layered and varied guitar textures and tones, supported by busy and diverse rhythms. The album weaves through a central song, with three versions of the solemn "Love Withers" spaced through the set. The first, "Love Withers Away," offers a full band arrangement, with Shawn singing words of trying to hold on to lost love. The second version, "Love Withers (Quiet)," presents an all-instrumental and electronic arrangement, before the album-closing "Love Withered" reprises the theme with vocals over the electronic arrangement. A song that predates the group's Upstream inception, the album-opener "See Through Thing" establishes Infused's musical identity, with Shawn singing hopeful words of two people facing the world together. Taking a harder-edged direction, "Strange Ignorance" addresses pomposity and naivete, while "Maybe" and "Another Day" both grasp for hope in a world of despair. Riding a darker and more atmospheric arrangement, "Time Passing" laments how moments become memories all too quickly. Infused's presentation sounds focused, as this group knows its musical terrain and constructs compelling melodies and soundscapes throughout the album. The blending and layering of guitars and keys gives these songs fullness and depth, and brings continuity to the album as a whole. Audio Epiphany is a strong, solid and fresh-sounding set that shows that Infused's creative spark not just survives, but thrives. (The album can be obtained through Infused's website, www.infusedmusictheband.com.)



Samantha Press **drawing by Jim Price**

Robert Ruffner / Back Alley Sound **photo by jp**

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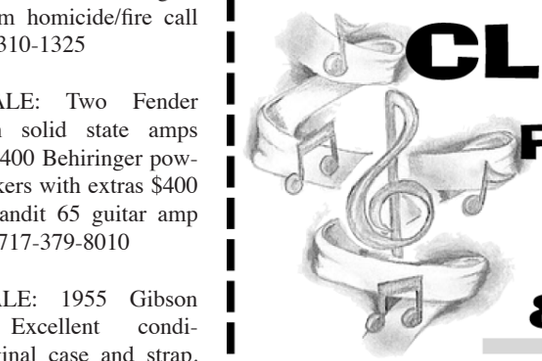

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SATURDAY, MARCH 5

NILE
W/ INCANTATION, SANGUISUGABOGG, I AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

DOYLE
W/ SALEMS CHILDE, BLANK ID, MIDNIGHT FOOLISHNESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

THE LACS

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

FIT FOR A KING
W/ SILENT PLANET / HOLLOW FRONT / AVOID

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

DRAGONFORCE
W/ BATTLEBEAST / VISION OF ATLANTIS / SEVEN SPIRES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

KNOCKED LOOSE
W/ MOVEMENTS, KUBLAI KHAN, KOYO

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2/5 FIVIO FOREIGN
2/19 BEANIE SIGEL + STATE PROPERTY
3/10 LICH KING
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4/16 FROM ASHES TO NEW
5/4 WAGE WAR
5/7 THE WARNING
5/19 COLT FORD
5/21 SUICIDE SILENCE + CARNIFEX
5/22 JACKYL